

Lancaster Farming

L. 5. NO. 26

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, May 21, 1960

\$2 Per Year

Rain Slows Farm Work in County

Pennsylvania farmers are being plagued by too much rain, the Crop Reporting Service of the State Agriculture Dept. indicates today in its weekly crop and weather roundup.

Intermittent rains and heavy weather during the past week have stopped spraying alfalfa fields for spittlebugs, rotted vegetable seeds in the ground, slowed growth of recent vegetable planting, and limited bee activity in orchards.

On the other hand, the showers were mostly light and spaced so that the ground absorbed the water, limiting erosion even on recently planted oats and corn fields. Pastures have grown rapidly because of the rains.

Some alfalfa in the county has been harvested. Most of the cut was put into silos, and several crops, particularly in the southern part of the county, have been made.

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WE - DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday - Wednesday

Temperatures for the next five days will average two to five degrees above normal of 55 at night and 77 in the afternoon.

Warmer Saturday, cooler Sunday and Monday, and warmer again Tuesday or Wednesday.

Scattered showers again about Tuesday may average 1/2 to 1/2 inch. During the past week .83 inch of rain fell at the Lancaster bureau. Total rainfall up to the 21st was 5.4 inches. Normal for the entire month is 5.4 inches.

Farm Cales

May 23—7:30 p.m. - meeting of the executive board of the 4-H leaders council in the county agent's office in the Lancaster Post-Office

May 24—7:30 p.m. - meeting of the Manor community 4-H club in the Penn-Manor High School

May 25—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Hay drying demonstration at the farm of Clayton Sangrey, one mile west of Lititz on the Manheim Road

May 26—7:30 p.m. - Holstein 4-H club meets at the farm of Henry Kettering, Lititz

May 27—7:30 p.m. - Rough Riders 4-H horse and pony club meets at the home of Bus Shoemaker, Quarryville R2

May 28—8:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Chicken Bar-B-Que at the Lancaster Poultry Center. Chicken to take out only.



IMPROVISING TO GET THE JOB done is one of the secrets of success on the Ressler Farm. Here Charles Ressler adjusts sweeps on the cultivator in preparation for the first tomato cultivation. The home made sweeps are boiler plates about 1/4"x8"x14" welded to a pipe that just fits the cultivator bracket. For the first cultivation the sweeps are set so that they push clods and trash away from the row to avoid covering the plants. During later cultivations, the sweeps are reversed to pull soil in toward the row. Charles said they work well for corn as well as tomatoes.

—LF PHOTO

Row Crops Need Not Destroy Soil Fertility

Editors note: This is the second in the series of articles describing the farming operations of Charles A. Ressler and his two sons, Hershey and Charles E.

Many people will argue that fertility on a farm can not be maintained if large acreages of canning crops and grains are grown. But Ressler's of Rawlinsville and Pleasant Grove will show you two farms where the fertility not only has been maintained, but has been improved each year.

When the elder Charles Ressler moved to the Holtwood R2 farm in the middle 1930's the land was eroded and not very productive.

Soil conservation practices such as contour stripping, sod waterways, more cover crops, green manure crops and close growing crops, and the construction of a series of contour terraces on the fields above the farm buildings soon stopped the run off of water and made possible the building up of soil fertility.

Even before Hershey Ressler, the older of the two sons, had graduated from Quarryville High School in the vocational agriculture course in 1943, the senior Ressler was contracting sizeable acreages of peas for canning as well as tomatoes. For several years the pea viner was located on the farm at Rawlinsville.

During those early years on the farm, the livestock program was mainly steers with a few hogs, mostly feeders.

After Charles finished school, three years after Hershey, the boys began farming in earnest with their father. Today the trio farms over three hundred acres on the two farms. The crop program is still mainly canning crops and grains and livestock production.

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Milk Top Income Producer Census Figures Show

Dairy products continue to lead the parade of agricultural value, the census figures released this week show.

Of the \$129 1/2 million realized during 1959 by the farmers of the Garden Spot county, \$23,290,000 came from the sale of milk. Dairy cows ranked second in value chalking up an income of \$22,425,000.

Eggs, even with the uneasy price picture for a good portion of the year managed to stay in third place by bringing in a total of \$17,837,000.

Other cattle, tobacco, poultry and corn ranked after the big three in that order.

The 1959 figures show that total gross income for the year was up more than \$7 million compared to 1958. The current total in gross income was \$129,500,000.

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Corn Demonstration Plot Planted; Test Varieties and Populations

In spite of the weather, the 1960 Lancaster County corn demonstrations are planted on two farms in the county.

Plot number one is on the farm of Richard Hess, Strasburg, and plot number two is at Elizabethtown R1 on the farm of Leroy Rutt.

Harry Sloat, Associate County Agent has conducted the demonstrations for 11 years. "And Dutch Bucher (former Lancaster County Agent) had them for about that many years before that," Sloat says.

Each year the locations are moved, but Sloat tries to get locations in various parts of the county so that different soil types and weather differences can be taken into consideration.

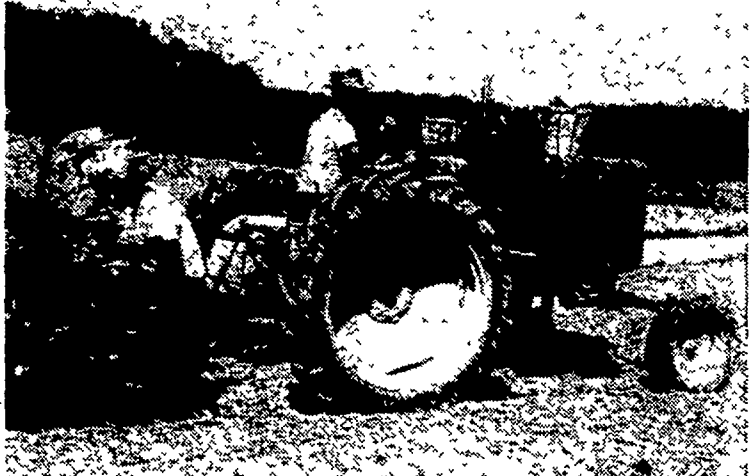
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SCD Offers Two Scholarships

Two \$150 scholarships for Penn State sophomores are being offered by the Pennsylvania Association of Soil Conservation District Directors, according to Amos H. Funk, chairman of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District.

The awards will be made to two students majoring in some phase of conservation, such as agronomy, forestry or wildlife management.

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PLANTING TWO ROWS OF TOMATOES at one trip is Hershey Ressler (on the tractor) with the help of four migrant workers. The tractor carries two 50 gallon tanks of water, enough to plant an acre, as well as extra plants. The wide-set wheels on the tractor makes it possible to cultivate the wide rows. Rows are six feet apart and plants are spaced 22 inches on the row. An agitator in the water tank keeps the starter fertilizer in solution during planting.

—LF PHOTO

April Hatch Shows Decline From 1959

The combined hatch of egg and broiler type chicks in Pennsylvania during April was down 23 percent from April 1959, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service revealed this week. This was the smallest total April hatch in the Keystone state since 1941.

Broiler type production comprising about 48 percent of the total was down 16 percent from a year earlier while egg type chicks were down 28 percent.

In the entire United States the production of broiler type chicks was off about five per cent from April '59 while production of egg type chicks was down some 25 per cent. This constitutes the smallest U. S. hatch of egg type birds since record keeping began in 1955.

Turning to eggs in incubators on May first, the picture is somewhat different. Broiler type eggs set in the major producing states were up 13 percent from the corresponding week last year.



PLANTING CORN BY HAND IS NOT completely forgotten in Lancaster County. Each year, Harry Sloat, associate county agent, brings out the old "punch planters" and puts in the county corn demonstration plots. Shown here on the farm of Leroy Rutt, Elizabethtown R1, Sloat is assisted by assistant county agent, Winthrop Merriam. Thirty two varieties of hybrid corn in six replicate plots were planted on each of two farms. The other site is at Strasburg R1 on the farm of Richard Hess.

—LF PHOTO